



COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

# Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



## CITF Events



COVID-19  
IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

GRUPE DE TRAVAIL  
SUR L'IMMUNITÉ  
FACE À LA COVID-19



CanCOVID

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications  
**COVID-19 vaccine safety**



May 5, 2022 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EDT

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us **Thursday, May 5**, when our 7<sup>th</sup> CITF/CanCOVID research seminar brings together experts affiliated with the CITF to discuss vaccine safety – a topic of concern for everyone. Our presenters will report on:

- Results of ongoing vaccine safety monitoring in Canada, in both adults and children;

- Details about serious adverse effects in Canada, including their frequency after various vaccine doses;
- Measures to mitigate the occurrence of serious adverse events;
- Vaccine safety in pregnant people;
- More!

#### **Presenters include:**

- **Julie Bettinger, MPH, PhD**, Professor, University of British Columbia; Principal Investigator, Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS), Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN); CITF-funded researcher.
- **Scott Halperin, MD**, Professor, Dalhousie University; Principal Investigator, CIRN; member of the CITF Leadership Group and Chair of the CITF Vaccine Surveillance Working Party.
- **Karina Top, MD, MSc, FRCPC**, Associate Professor, Dalhousie University; Principal Investigator, Special Immunization Clinic (SIC) Network at CIRN; and co-PI, Canadian Immunization Monitoring Program, ACTive (IMPACT) Project; CITF-funded researcher.

#### **And hosting on behalf of the CITF:**

- **Timothy Evans, MD, PhD**, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

Registration coming soon. Consult our [website](#) for further details.



## Seminar Series Research Results & Implications

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## **Summary and video available now!**

Read the summary report and see the recording of our seminar on pediatric vaccination during which our experts addressed the unique features of childhood immunity, safety, and vaccine hesitancy.

[Read the summary](#)[Watch the video](#)

## CITF-Funded Research Results

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### **35% more Canadian blood donors had infection-acquired antibodies by mid-February**

In its latest report, Canadian Blood Services revealed that almost a quarter (22.7%) of all blood donors had evidence of a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, and this rate represented a 35% jump during the 22-day sampling period (January 24 – February 15, 2022). Mid-February's seropositivity rate was quadruple that seen in Canadian Blood Services' seroprevalence reports for the months of March through November 2021 (prior to the Omicron wave). These findings unmistakably reflect Omicron's hold. Young donors (36.6%) and those self-identifying as a visible minority (32.4%) continue to be most at risk to infection. Nevertheless, nearly all (99.7%) blood donors exhibited spike antibodies against the virus, which reflects the very high levels of vaccination, including the recent third dose or boosters.

[Read More](#)

### **Tracking the safety of pediatric vaccinations: latest results from CANVAS-COVID**

The CITF-funded CANVAS-COVID study that has been collecting information on health conditions following vaccination in more than 650,000 Canadian adults has now expanded to children. The findings show that about 95% of children reported no other symptoms beyond temporary pain at the injection site within seven days of their vaccine. The incidence of serious side effects, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations following COVID-19 vaccination are exceedingly rare.

CANVAS lead investigator, Dr. Julie Bettinger, will be among the presenters

at our upcoming seminar on COVID-19 vaccine safety. Results from the CANVAS-COVID study for both adults and children are updated frequently on their website.

[Access it here](#)



## CITF Announcement

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### **National survey to assess the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Government of Canada is launching a second cycle of the Canadian COVID-19 Antibody and Health Survey (CCAHS). This national survey, led by Statistics Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF), aims to better understand the impacts of the pandemic on the health and well-being of Canadians, including the prevalence of chronic symptoms and conditions and the challenges that Canadians may have faced in accessing healthcare.

[Read more](#)



## April issue of the *CTF Monthly Review*: Available now!

The latest edition features new national data from Canadian Blood Services showing the impact of the Omicron wave, facts about pediatric vaccination, highlights from recent CTF-funded projects, and more.

[Read more](#)



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